The North Carolina Judicial System: Family Courts

William Childs Fiscal Research Division



Family Court

- Consolidate all of a family's legal issues before a single District Court judge or team of judges
- Cases involving:
 - juvenile delinquency
 - abuse, neglect and dependency allegations
 - termination of parental rights
 - domestic violence
 - child custody and visitation rights
 - divorce and related financial issues
- 13 of 42 districts
- Cost: \$2.9 M for 45.75 FTE
- Statewide Expansion: \$9.6 M for 110 FTE



"Does your client wish to plead 'sweet' or 'lame'?"

District Court Districts and Counties with Family Court

District	Counties	Percentage of State Population	
3A	Pitt	1.8%	
5	New Hanover, Pender	2.7%	
6A	Halifax	0.6%	
8	Greene, Lenoir, Wayne	2.1%	
10	Wake	9.7%	
12	Cumberland	3.4%	
14	Durham	2.9%	
19B	Randolph, Montgomery	1.7%	
20A	Anson, Richmond, Stanly	1.4%	
20B	Union	2.1%	
25	Burke, Caldwell, Catawba	3.4%	
26	Mecklenburg	9.9%	
28	Buncombe	2.5%	
13 Districts	21 Counties	44.2%	

Family Court Personnel, Sept. 2014

- Total FTE: 45.75
- FC Administrator FTE: 10
- FC Case Coordinator FTE: 31.75
- FC Judicial Assistant: 4
- Vacant FTE: 3

Family Court Caseflow

- FC Districts had 47.6 percent of all district court civil domestic cases disposed in FY 2012-13.
- FC districts are significantly less likely to have district court civil domestic cases pending for more than a year.

District Court Civil Domestic Cases, FY 2012-13

	Case	Number of	Number of Cases
	Clearance	Cases	Pending More Than
	Rate	Disposed	A Year
Family Court Districts	101.2%	45,448	18.8%
Non-Family Court Districts	96.3%	50,091	51.0%

Source: AOC